

2012 United States Air Force Professional Reading List

Film List

Apollo 13: Ron Howard, 1995. "Houston, we have a problem." Those words were immortalized during the tense days of the Apollo 13 lunar mission crisis in 1970, events recreated in this epic historical drama from Ron Howard. Astronaut Jim Lovell (Tom Hanks) leads command module pilot Jack Swigert (Kevin Bacon) and lunar module driver Fred Haise (Bill Paxton) on what is slated as NASA's third lunar landing mission. (791.43 A644)

Camp Victory: Carol Dysinger, 2010. Camp Victory, Afghanistan gets at the stark reality of the US/NATO "exit strategy" from Afghanistan. Shot over the course of five years, the film follows a battle-hardened Afghan General and the steady stream of U.S. National Guard soldiers deployed to train him and his army. (Not available)

Double Victory: Double Victory: Two Warriors in the Fight for Civil Rights During WWII is 13 years in the making. Many people along the way were of great assistance, from the nameless secretary who gave the first lead, to people who donated their time and resources. This film combines photographs, newspaper articles, National Archive footage, interviews, audio clips, and maps to recount this story. (Not available)

Memphis Belle: Michael Caton-Jones, 1990. Unabashedly sentimental, this war film was produced by David Putnam in partnership with Catherine Wyler, whose father William Wyler directed an acclaimed documentary about the real-life events depicted in the film. The ensemble cast is composed of ten young actors portraying the crew of the World War II B-17 bomber "Memphis Belle," anticipating their 25th and last mission before they will be able to go home. (791.43 M533)

Restrepo: Tim Hetherington, 2010. Filmmakers Sebastian Junger and Tim Hetherington pay a visit to Afghanistan's Korengal Valley to spend a year with the Second Platoon, a besieged squadron who dubbed their stronghold Outpost Restrepo in honor of their fallen comrade PFC Juan Restrepo. An al-Qaeda and Taliban stronghold, Korengal Valley sees some of the fiercest fighting in the War on Terror. At Outpost Restrepo, every shot fired is personal, and every target hit a gift to a fallen friend. (958.1047 R436)

Strategic Air Command: Anthony Mann, 1955. At the St. Louis Cardinals' winter baseball camp in Florida, third baseman Robert "Dutch" Holland reunites with his old Air Force buddy, Gen. Rusty Castle, and invites him to his wife Sally's housewarming party that night. During the evening, Rusty informs Dutch, a reservist, that his colleague, Gen. Ennis C. Hawkes, has called Dutch back to duty for the Strategic Air Command, or SAC. Dutch, who was a bomber pilot during World War II, reacts to the announcement with anger, as he enjoys playing baseball and is newly married. (Not Available)

Thirteen Days: Roger Donaldson, 2000. In 1962, unbeknownst to all but a select few, the world hovered on the brink of nuclear war for nearly two weeks. That agonizingly tense period, as experienced by the leaders of our government, is dramatized superbly in the suspenseful Thirteen Days. (791.43 T447)

Reading List

Why Success Always Starts With Failure: Tim Harford, 2011. In this groundbreaking book, Tim Harford, the Undercover Economist, shows us a new and inspiring approach to solving the most pressing problems in our lives. When faced with complex situations, we have all become accustomed to looking to our leaders to set out a plan of action and blaze a path to success. Harford argues that today's challenges simply cannot be tackled with ready-made solutions and expert opinion; the world has become far too unpredictable and profoundly complex. Instead, we must *adapt*. (155.24 H278)

Paradise Beneath Her Feet: Isobel Coleman, 2010. In this timely book, Coleman journeys through the strategic crescent of the greater Middle East—Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan—to reveal how activists are working within the tenets of Islam to create economic, political, and educational opportunities for women. Coleman argues that these efforts are critical to bridging the conflict between those championing reform and those seeking to oppress women in the name of religious tradition. Success will bring greater stability and prosperity to the Middle East and stands to transform the region. (305.48 C692)

The Words We Live By: Linda R. Monk, 2004. Now Linda R. Monk, an award-winning author and journalist, takes us through the Constitution, line by line, to help us comprehend this amazing document. From the Preamble, which she analyzes with inspiration from Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Charlton Heston, and James Madison, to each and every amendment, Monk offers insight, legal expertise, surprising facts and trivia, opposing interpretations, and historical anecdotes to breathe life into this provocative and hallowed document. (342.73 M745)

Airpower for Strategic Effect: Colin Gray, 2012. *Airpower for Strategic Effect* provides a critical, strategic history of airpower as well as a new general theory. A wholly original work combining ideas drawn from existing literature on airpower with Colin S. Gray's own research on strategy, this study situates the story of airpower within a larger history of modern strategy, reevaluating the benefits of airpower from World War I to recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Gray rethinks airpower's strategic history and its general strategic theory in light of the information he has provided, concluding with a look at the relationship between theory and current, practical issues. (Coming May 2012)

Physics of The Future: Michio Kaku, 2011. In *Physics of the Future*, Michio Kaku—the New York Times bestselling author of *Physics of the Impossible*—gives us a stunning, provocative, and exhilarating vision of the coming century based on interviews with over three hundred of the world's top scientists who are already inventing the future in their labs. The result is the most authoritative and scientifically accurate description of the revolutionary developments taking place in medicine, computers, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, energy production, and astronautics. (303.48 K13)

The Party: Richard McGregor, 2010. In *The Party*, Richard McGregor delves deeply into China's inner sanctum for the first time, showing how the Communist Party controls the government, courts, media, and military, and how it keeps all corruption accusations against its members in-house. The Party's decisions have a global impact, yet the CPC remains a deeply secretive body, hostile to the law, unaccountable to anyone or anything other than its own internal tribunals. It is the world's only geopolitical rival of the United States, and is steadfastly poised to think the worst of the West. In this provocative and illuminating account, Richard McGregor offers a captivating portrait of China's Communist Party, its grip on power and control over China, and its future. (324.251 M147)

Start With Why: Simon Sinek, 2010. Why are some people and organizations more innovative, more influential, and more profitable than others? Why do some command greater loyalty? In studying the leaders who've had the greatest influence in the world, Simon Sinek discovered that they all think, act, and communicate in the exact same way—and it's the complete opposite of what everyone else does. People like Martin Luther King Jr., Steve Jobs, and the Wright Brothers might have little in common, but they all started with why. (658.4 S616)

Catch 22: Joseph Heller, 1961. It is set in the closing months of World War II, in an American bomber squadron on a small island off Italy. Its hero is a bombardier named Yossarian, who is frantic and furious because thousands of people he hasn't even met keep trying to kill him. (He has decided to live forever even if he has to die in the attempt.) His problem is

Colonel Cathcart, who keeps raising the number of missions the men have to fly. (813.54 H477)

Unbroken: Laura Hillenbrand, 2010. On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War. (940.54 H651)

Freedom Flyers: J. Todd Moya, 2012. In this inspiring account of the Tuskegee Airmen—the country's first African American military pilots—historian J. Todd Moya captures the challenges and triumphs of these brave aviators in their own words, drawing on more than 800 interviews recorded for the National Park Service's Tuskegee Airmen Oral History Project. (940.544973 M938)

The Forever War: Dexter Filkins, 2009. Like no other book, *The Forever War* allows us a visceral understanding of today's battlefields and of the experiences of the people on the ground, warriors and innocents alike. It is a brilliant, fearless work, not just about America's wars after 9/11, but ultimately about the nature of war itself. (956.70443 F483)

A Country of Vast Designs: Robert W. Merry, 2010. *A Country of Vast Designs* is mainly a thorough, well-wrought political history of Polk's presidency. The origins, conduct and results of the war with Mexico necessarily dominate the narrative, but Merry covers all of the other major issues and events, and many of the minor ones as well...Merry is well aware of how intrigues and manipulations have always held sway in Washington, and he reports the machinations of the Polk years with clarity and an insider's verve. Filled with intricate stories of personal conflict, psychological gamesmanship and unintended consequences, his book, although bound to stir controversy, is one of the most astute and informative historical accounts yet written about national politics, and especially Washington politics, during the decisive 1840s. (973.6 M753)

The Hunters: James Salter, 1999. Captain Cleve Connell arrives in Korea with a single goal: to become an ace, one of that elite fraternity of jet pilots who have downed five MIGs. But as his fellow airmen rack up kill after kill--sometimes under dubious circumstances--Cleve's luck runs bad. Other pilots question his guts. Cleve comes to question himself. And then in one icy instant 40,000 feet above the Yalu River, his luck changes forever. (Fiction SAL)